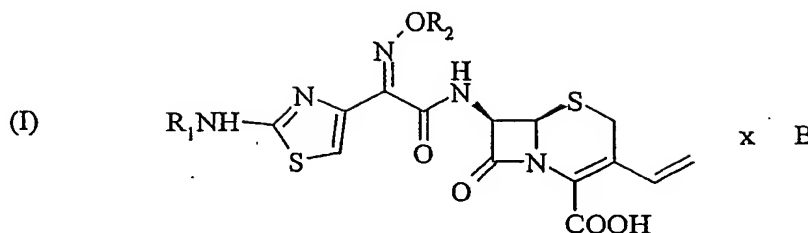


CLAIMS

1. Salts of formula (I)



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wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from a C_1 - C_6 acyl group optionally substituted with one or more chlorine or fluorine atoms, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;

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R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;

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B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; solvates or adducts thereof.

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2. Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group.

3. Salts as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein R_2 is a tert-butyl, p-methoxybenzyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl, benzhydryl, bis(p-methoxyphenyl)methyl and trityl group.

4. Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is trityl.

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5. Salts as claimed in any one of claims 1-4 in which B is a primary amine

selected from cyclohexylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, benzylamine, α -methylbenzylamine and tert-octylamine.

6. Salts as claimed in any one of claims 1-4 in which B is a secondary amine selected from diethylamine, morpholine, dicyclohexylamine, N,N-methylbenzylamine or N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine.

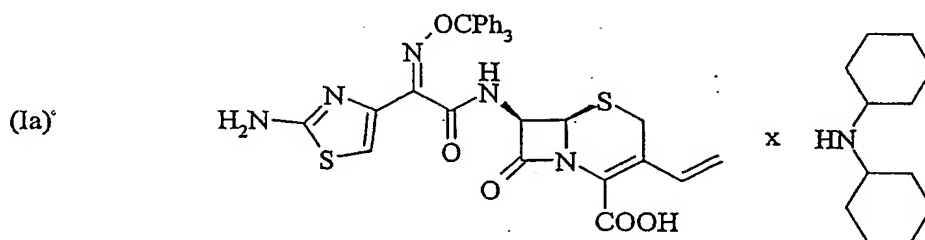
7. Salts as claimed in claim 6 wherein B is dicyclohexylamine.

8. Salts as claimed in any one of claims 1-4 wherein B is a tertiary amine selected from triethylamine, tributylamine, triisooctylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine or quinoline.

9. Salts as claimed in any one of claims 1-4 wherein B is 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine.

10. Salts as claimed in any one of claims 1-4 wherein B is 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

11. Salt of formula (Ia)



12. Use of the salts as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of cefdinir.